

and other intoxicating liquors are the curse of our country. I was very young when my mother died, and the last thing she did in this world was to call me to her bedside and say to me, 'John, promise me that a single drop of spirits shall never touch your lips.'"

"Very well," said the practical joker, "in that case I must drink it alone." So said, so done. He unstopped the flask and took a large draught. Scarcely had he done this when, throwing the bottle to the ground, he broke out with an oath, and said, "My mouth is all raw!"

At this the old gentleman discovered the disappearance of his flask, and to the great amusement and laughter of all the persons present, he said, "Ah, young man, another time you will be more careful and avoid appropriating what doesn't belong to you. I am Dr. —, and this flask contained quinine and iron for one of my patients."

The young joker, seeing his prank turn out so ill, landed at the next station.

A YOUNG INVENTOR

The power loom has the inventions of a farmer's boy, who had never seen or heard of such a thing. He fashioned one with his pen knife, and when he got it all done he showed it with great enthusiasm to his father, who at once kicked it all to pieces, saying he would have no boy about him who would spend his time on such foolish things. The boy was sent to a blacksmith to learn a trade, and his master took a lively interest in him. He made a loom of what was left of the one his father had broken up and showed it to his master. The blacksmith saw he had no common boy as an apprentice and that the invention was a valuable one. He had a loom constructed under the supervision of the boy. It worked to their perfect satisfaction, and the blacksmith furnished the means to manufacture the loom, and the boy received half the profits.

In about a year the blacksmith wrote to the boy's father that he should visit him and bring with him a wealthy gentleman who was the inventor of the celebrated power loom.

You may be able to judge of the astonishment at the old home when his son was presented to him as the inventor, who told him that the loom was the same as the model that he had kicked to pieces the previous year.—*Union Special*.

Only melted gold is minted; only moistened clay is moulded; only softened wax receives the die; only broken and contrite hearts can take and keep the fruit of heaven. If that is thy condition, wait beneath the pressure of the Holy Spirit; He shall leave image of Jesus upon thee, and change thee into His likeness from glory to glory.—*F. B. Meyer*.

Our Young People

GOD'S UNFAILING PROMISES

Ps. 91 : 1-16.

Topic for March 27.

It is natural to indulge in hope. The promises are the most marked passages of the Bible, and the "promise meetings" which come around occasionally are usually the most enthusiastic meetings of all. It is right that they should be. Rejoicing in a promise implies a looking forward to better things. It implies faith in the promises and willingness to obey the conditions of the promise. He who does not aspire to a greater perfection is either a self-satisfied fool or a godless knave.

God has set great things in the path of the just in order that we "forgetting the things that are behind," might "run with patience the race that is set before us," "till we all attain unto the fullness of the stature of manhood in Christ Jesus."

SCRIPTURE LIGHT

1. The promises are many and precious, II Peter 1 : 4.
2. There hath not failed one word, II Cor. 1 : 20 ; I Kings 8 : 56.
3. The Lord is not slack, II Peter 3 : 9.
4. He cannot deny himself, II Tim. 2 : 13.
5. He is able to perform them, Rom. 4 : 21.
6. He wants us to ask, Matt. 7 : 7 ; Isa. 43 : 26.
7. He loves to give, Matt. 7 : 11.
8. Receiving is hindered by unbelief, Heb. 3 : 19.
9. Receiving is hindered by sin, Hosea 7 : 1.
10. Conclusion : "Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God," II Cor. 7 : 1 (R. V.)

Everyone ought to have a favorite promise and also ought to mark in the Bible those promises which are especially helpful. There are promises for every circumstance in life. But to many the word is like a strange apothecary's shop; they do not know where to look for the medicine they want. It is a good plan to copy Bible readings on the blank pages of one's Bible to aid in locating desired passages.

Here are good verses to mark and quote. Search out many more.

- The Savior promised, Isa. 53 ; Matt. 1 : 21.
 The spirit promised, Luke 24 : 49 ; Luke 11 : 13 ; Acts 2 : 33, 39.
 Eternal life promised, I John 2 : 25 ; Titus 1 : 2.
 For the thirsty, Rev. 22 : 17.
 "tired, Matt. 11 : 28, 29.
 "troubled, John 14 : 1, 27.
 "sick, Jas. 5 : 14-16 ; Matt. 8 : 17 ; Ps. 91.
 "poor, Ps. 37 : 3.
 "forsaken, Ps. 27 : 10.
 "backslidden, Jer. 3 : 12, 13, 22.
 "discouraged, Gal. 6 : 9.
 "persecuted, I Peter 4 : 12-19.
 "homesick, Matt. 12 : 48-50.
 "friendless, Prov. 18 : 24 ; Matt. 28 : 20.

FOR ANSWER IN THE MEETING

1. What is the first commandment with promise? Eph. 6 : 2 ; Ex. 20 : 12.
2. What is meant by "The Holy Spirit of promise?" Eph. 1 : 13.
3. Who are "children of the promise?" Gal. 4 : 28.
4. Why are the promises of the new covenant better than those of the old? Heb. 8 : 6.
5. Why are so many promises conditional?
6. What are some promises that are yet future?
7. How can we make the most of the promises?

C. F. YODER.

WORKING FOR CHRIST

And as to work, alas, how little work is done just for Christ alone. We work, indeed, and the church hums like a hive; but there is a great deal of church work in which frequently is a spirit not at all different from that in men work for political organizations;

or in clubs and associations in which they take a personal pride of fraternity or paternity. There is such a thing as church pride as well as club pride, pride of organization, pride of leadership. Have you not known a man that would pull like a four-horse team if you would only let him pull in the lead, but if he could not lead he would not pull a pound?

And so it becomes apparent that the real motive was not love to Christ at all, but only pride of leadership. If there is anything that God abhors it is that. If there is anything that the world despises it is that; and this, let me say, in the great hindrance in the way Christianity to-day. It is the want of the spirit of Christ. It is not the lack of talking, nor the lack of giving, nor the lack of doing, but it is the lack of the spirit of Christ. The world has heard of the spirit of Christ, and critically watches for its manifestation in the church; but in the judgment of the world there is no special difference in point of extravagance, and arrogance, and ostentation, and excusiveness, and selfishness, between itself and the church. It watches the Christian so-called in business, and sees the same greediness, and often alas! the same unscrupulousness, that distinguishes other men, and the world shrugs its shoulders and wags its head and says, "Aha! Aha!" And in the matter of the poor, the world sees the professed disciple of the man of Nazareth passing by like the priest and Levite on the other side and leaving the poor brother languishing in misery, and the world loses faith if not in religion at least in the man who professes it. Now the world is no doubt uncharitable; the world has always been uncharitable; the world is bound to see the worst of the church, but alas that there should be so much to see that is utterly alien to the spirit of Christ!—*P. S. Henson, D. D.*

TRACT DISTRIBUTION

To those of our young people who attempt to do anything in the way of "tract distribution," one of the most blessed and pleasant methods of sowing the good seed, the following seven rules will, I am sure, prove good enough to cut out and use:

1. Pray. I Thess. 5 : 17. Have a district, and let your district be a matter of prayer, of daily prayer. Always secure a special season of prayer before setting out for the work, asking for love to souls, for wisdom to speak to them, for faithfulness in dealing with them.

2. Seek to win souls. Prov. 11 : 30. Do not be content with merely leaving tracts. Remember, you may be the only Christian who comes in contact with many of the people, and that God has sent you as his messenger. Remember "he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully."

3. "I am with you." Matt. 28 : 20. Seek to realize, whenever you go to your work, that Jesus goes with you, ready to supply all your need, of courage, wisdom, love, patience—yes, all.